

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Macino et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/913,878

FILED: January 23, 2002

FOR: ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A *N. CRASSA*  
SILENCING GENE AND USES THEREOF

GROUP: 1636

EXAMINER: Celine Qian

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Restriction Requirement of February 13, 2004, Applicant elects with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-11 and 14, drawn to a nucleotide sequence encoding for a protein having a silencing activity and in comprising a RNA-dependent domain, wherein the domain is homologous to a portion of SEQ ID NO:1.

The Applicants believe that Group VIII, Claim 23 is drawn to the same invention as Group I, that the claims fall under the same search classifications and can be searched together in one search.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Sarah E. Kennedy

Date: 3/1/04